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Solemn Admonitions For The New Year

R. W. NUMBERS.

President, British West Indies Union

Today we find ourselves on the threshold of a new year. As we look back over the past year we would respond with Samuel, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." It is God who hath given us the victory, and we shall give the honour to His Holy name.

For 1953 we predict a greater harvest of souls than last year, but we also clearly see an unparalleled conflict with the powers of darkness on one side, and a glorious victory through Christ on the other. Satan will tell you to lay down your armour, for your brethren do not appreciate your work; but listen to these words from the messenger of the Lord: "Although your fellowmen may never appreciate your efforts or give you credit for them, yet you are to work on." *Vol. 4, page 521.* "What if Christ, becoming weary of the ingratitude and abuse that met Him on every side, had left His work! What if He had never reached that period when He said: 'It is finished!' What if He had returned to heaven, discouraged by His reception! What if He had never passed through that soul agony in the garden of Gethsemane that forced from His pores great drops of blood!" —*Vol 4 page 82.*

Christ was motivated by an undying love for His heavenly Father, and a passion for the fallen race. He looked not at the present life with its trials and bitter sorrows, but to the future with its immortal glory with the saints at His Father's side. We too, as workers with Christ, must keep our vision focused on the end of the race; and let us not try

to find the easiest place in which to labour, or insist upon our plans being carried out, lest we find ourselves fighting against God.



We are pleased to introduce to our readers our new Secretary-Treasurer of the British West Indies Union Mission, Elder S. E. White. Elder White comes to us from the Caribbean Union where he served seven years as Secretary-Treasurer of the South Caribbean Mission, and two and one-half years as President of the Leeward Islands Mission.

"Instead of choosing the work most pleasing to us, and refusing to do some-

thing that our brethren think we should do, we are to inquire; 'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?' Instead of marking out the way that natural inclination prompts us to follow, we are to pray: 'Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path'. Psalm 27:11." —*Vol. 7, page 252.*

As workers and followers of Christ, we must endeavour to walk with God as Enoch did. His life is an illustration of what one can become when he draws so close to God each day that unconsciously he reflects the character of God. He was in this same world of ours with its multitudinous problems and difficulties. There were family problems, social problems, preaching appointments, private interviews, and no doubt misunderstandings; but above all this was a simple faith in His heavenly Father. Enoch's life was not a life of ease, but one that developed a saint out of a sinner. Notice the following comment by Sister White: "It was through constant conflict and simple faith that Enoch walked with God. You may all do the same. You may be thoroughly converted and transformed, and be indeed children of God, enjoying not only the knowledge of His will, but, by your example, leading others in the same path of humble obedience and consecration." —*Vol. 3, page 543.*

Shall we not strive to make this new and untried year one that will prepare us for sudden translation? This year could be our last opportunity to work for God and those that are going to Christless graves!

Our watchword for 1953 is EVANGELISM. But let us start with our own poor souls in making every feature of our lives parallel to the Divine pattern, and then let us seek a revival in our homes, and districts, while at the same time we join hands with our brethren in clearing the King's highway from all jealousies and faultfinding, and making room for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

A day of apostolic power and glorious victory is right upon us. Ministers and laymen in fulfillment of God's promises, are to go forth without the camp of Israel and sound the final warning to the nations of the world. God is calling multitudes who are waiting for you and me to rescue them in this year of the church's greatest triumph before the decree goes forth. Who will consecrate himself fully to the Lord for 1953? Who will go anywhere the Master might call? Let us respond with Isaiah, "Here am I, O Lord, send me!"

Call to Evangelism

These are staggering times. Millions face Christ or chaos! They live in the shadow of impending doom. Many are in the valley of decision. In the cities on the highways, across great expanses of countryside and in lands afar, millions on the brink of eternity have not heard the advent message.

The Spirit of Prophecy declares:

"Now is the time for the last warning to be given . . . All are now deciding their eternal destiny . . . Decided efforts should be made to bring the message for this time prominently before the people. The third angel is to go forth with great power". —*Vol. 6, page 16.*

"In this country and in the foreign countries the cause of present truth is to make more rapid advancement than it has made." We "must go as far and as fast as possible with a determination to do the very things that the Lord has said should be done . . . The world must hear the warning message". *Ms. 162, (1905)*

We believe that the time has come for the fulfilment of this prediction by the messenger of the Lord:

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given". *Great Controversy*, pp. 611, 612.

This is the time for the church of the living God to go forward in unity and in the fellowship of service. The "everlasting gospel" must go now to "every nation,

and kindred, and tongue, and people." Rev. 14:6. To this we pledge our lives and our all in renewed dedication. We come to the cross repentant sinners; we leave it exultant witnesses. And we sound a solemn call to the church and ministry to unite with us in this last-hour experience. Mantled with the promised power, we shall cause the glory of God to shine forth to the ends of the earth.

WHEREAS, This call to evangelism brings the advent movement face to face with God's last summons to universal action; and

WHEREAS, Every resource in men and means must be harnessed now and utilized to the very best advantage, so that "terrible as an army with banners" we can "be strong and do exploits" with a maximum efficiency and success, it is

RECOMMENDED, 1. That the local committees proceed immediately to survey their territories and to marshal their forces with a view to organizing an over-all programme of integrated evangelism by which the total strength of the ministry, the activities of every department and the resources of every institution shall be focussed on soul-winning fruitage.

2. That the local fields organize yearly institutes of at least one day's duration under the direction of the president and the departmental secretaries, possibly at the time of the church officers' conventions at which this programme of integrated evangelism can be developed, soul-winning techniques presented, and church leaders trained more efficiently, thereby allowing ministers to devote their major time and interest to leadership of public evangelism and to rallying the church, the Sabbath school, and the youth in concerted soul-winning action.

3. That we encourage union and local committees to occasionally invite experienced evangelists to meet with them in counsel.

4. That when and where practicable, executive committees and boards arrange the duties of all credentialed and licensed workers so that they can conduct, or be associated with at least one public effort yearly.

5. That an ever-increasing evangelistic mold be placed on our colporteur work, and that colporteur evangelists be encouraged to co-operate with ministers in soul-winning by preparing the field with literature prior to a public evangelistic campaign, by reporting the names and addresses of those who have purchased literature in the area, and by personally inviting to the meetings those who have manifested an interest in the message.

6. That every Seventh-day Adventist church be organized as an evangelistic centre in which a year-round programme of public evangelism is carried forward by either the conference worker or trained laymen, and that unless a major evangelistic effort is being conducted in the vicinity, the lights be on in our churches each Sunday evening where an evangelistic programme can be conducted.

7. That the responsible leaders in local and union fields keep this programme of expanding evangelism constantly before their committees, workers, and churches, informing them of progress made in achieving the objective.

(Action taken at the 1952 Autumn Council of the General Conference.)

Thank You!

The British West Indies Union Mission was favoured by the help of Elders L. L. Moffit of the General Conference, and W. A. Wild of the Inter-American Division who gave us very valuable help in Sabbath school promotion work during the month of October.

At our Annual Union Year End Committee we were blessed with the counsel and help of Elder W. E. Nelson of the General Conference, and Brethren L. F. Bohner and L. L. Reile of the Inter-American Division.

At the present time Elder N. F. Brewer of the General Conference is with us to help in the Commencement exercises of the West Indian Training College, as well as the Biennial Sessions of the East and West Jamaica Conferences.

Adventuring for Christ in the Bahamas

In the latter part of the year 1950, we answered a call from the Bahamas Mission to work in that field, and landed in Nassau on January 17, 1951.

After spending a few days with President Gibson at his home, we moved to our own home in Nassau and I left the following day for the island of Andros, accompanied by Brother Gibson. It was on a bright Sabbath morning that we sailed from the harbour of Nassau, and reached our destination the following day at about sunset. The President led the way to a little thatched cottage where in a few minutes we had our cots up and our small pressure stove going at full speed in the preparation of our super. As I looked around, I could not help saying to myself,

"at last nine eyes hath seen what I have so often read of in our Sabbath School Mission Quarterlies."

Supper was followed by a service in our little Kemps Bay church, where my first sermon was preached in my new field. The people responded to the call of God and came with tears to the altar, and we returned home filled with much courage.

The following day we went to the school site and started with empty hands to build a foundation. After some investigation, we found we could get 50 square-feet of lumber to borrow, and so we started work on a school building 42 feet long by 22 feet wide. The days were spent in building and the nights in preaching, and by the time the boat arrived we had about one-half of the foundation laid, and had visited three of the churches on South Andros.

We returned to Nassau, and after spending a few days in trying to get my family settled, I returned with some materials to continue the construction of the school building. Many hard and trying days were spent during the hot summer months, but by the end of July we sang praises to God: we had reached the point where we could dedicate this educational monument to His glory, and to the cause of true education. Blood, sweat, and tears, with the blessing of God had at last accomplished what at times seemed almost impossible. We were honoured to have Pastor R. W. Numbers, president of the British West Indies Union Mission, and Mr. Darville, Commissioner of South Andros, with us for the dedicatory service. It was also at this period that we had our first out island convention, which was very successful in every way.

At the end of August I left Andros after baptizing 25 precious souls; preached 78 sermons; built the school with mine own hands and the help of the faithful brethren; made hundreds of visits giving Bible studies, and trusting that many precious fruits will be borne for the Kingdom of God in the years to come.

In September 1951, Pastor A. C. Stockhausen, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary of the British West Indies Union, responded to an invitation to conduct an evangelistic effort in Nassau, and I was asked to help in preparing the hall for the meetings and to help in visiting during the effort. Following this effort I took care of the churches in New Providence in the absence of Pastor O. P. Jones until the arrival of a new worker in January.

During this short period of only a

few weeks, many visits were made in an effort to strengthen and unify the members, and seven were added to the church by baptism.

The year 1952 found us ready to leave for the island of Eleuthera, and on the 8th of February my family and I settled in Rock Sound. We conducted a short series of meetings, and in spite of severe opposition 5 took their stand, but unfortunately they removed to Nassau and Grand Bahama, so we decided to move on to Tarpun Bay for another effort. After three months of hard work we rejoiced to see five precious souls added to our little church, and about twelve added to the Sabbath school. When we left at the end of five months the membership of our Sabbath school at Tarpun Bay was 34. Thanks to the faithfulness of Brother Knowles and all our dear people of Tarpun Bay who co-operated so wonderfully.

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A Message for Youth

The Seventh-day Adventist youth of East Jamaica faces the most momentous period in the history of the world. This is not the most serious moment because of economic difficulties, or because of new threats of international conflicts among the strong and powerful nations of earth; neither is it the most serious because of the ever increasing stockpile of atomic and hydrogen bombs, or jet planes, or atomic weapons of warfare; but it is for a reason more far reaching, and of a thousand fold greater importance.

Listen, as God speaks to you: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Romans 13:11.

Notice that the apostle calls to our attention the fact that we know the time. Seventh-day Adventist youth knows the time; but this knowledge of the times is

of no benefit unless one is ready to awake from his sleep of sin.

The greatest problem with which you are faced, my dear young friend, is that of living a consistent Christian life from day to day. The reason why this is such a problem is because you are conscious of the time in which we are living; and as you measure your life by the Divine yardstick you discover that your actual experience is a contradiction to your profession.

There is no greater truth expressed in the Scriptures than this, "for now is our salvation nearer than we believed." Were you reared in an Adventist home and adapted the truth when you were 13 or 14 years of age? Then your salvation is much nearer now than those days of early childhood. If you were out in the dark cold world of sin, young friend, and was rescued by Christ two, five, or seven years ago, Jesus reminds you that your salvation is nearer now than when He found you in your lost condition.

In these days we have become accustomed to mass meetings, clubs, unions, and other organizations which decide their action by a large majority decision; but not so with salvation. The Lord has removed it from the masses and the will of the majority, and has made a personal approach to you. For now is YOUR salvation nearer than when you first believed. Even though ten of you may have heard and believed the truth and were baptized at the same baptismal service, YOUR personal salvation is nearer than when you all believed together.

The second advent of Christ is the only medium of salvation. This being the case, it is of the utmost importance that the coming of Christ be kept prominent in your thinking. If this were done, you would be prepared to meet Him; for whenever the devil suggests that you lie, steal, criticise, backbite; or whatever thoughts of theatre-going, jazz music, dance, pride, immorality, or any of the thousands of wrongs that one does today are introduced, you would say, "I am sorry, I can't assist in such a project, for Christ's coming is nearer now than when I first believed." What a happy Christian experience you would enjoy!

No, friend of mine, you dare not commit the same sin day after day. Don't ask me why, for you know that your salvation is nearer now than when you first believed.

—O. E. GORDON.

M.V. Secretary, East Jamaica Conference.

An Appeal from the British Union

In a recent letter received from Elder E. B. Rudge, Secretary of the Northern European Division, we quote the following paragraph:

"The British Union Conference brethren have also asked that we suggest to you that if our Jamaican brethren decide to come to England, they should have some understanding in advance as to what they expect to do and where they expect to locate. Housing accommodation is extremely short in this country and will continue to be for many years, despite the heavy building programme that the British Government is carrying on. We fear that some of these brethren from Jamaica will experience difficulty and hardship, and the young women facing grave difficulties in earning a livelihood, if they continue to come here without some plans formed in advance."

Brother Rudge also urges that those who are planning to go to England should first receive a letter of recommendation from their local church or conference, stating that they are in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist church.

We believe that Brother Rudge has given sound counsel, and we trust you will pass this word on to those of your friends who may be thinking of going to England for work.

—R. W. N.

The Blessedness of Giving

When Sir William Russell was being led to the gallows he took out his time-piece and handed it to the physician who waited upon him with the statement: "Would you please take this time-piece and keep it, because I will have no further need for it. I am now dealing with eternity."

It is true each one of us is vitally concerned with eternity. It influences all that we do or say. However, unlike Sir William, we are still dealing with time even though the moments are fleeting and its sands fast running out of the hour-glass. The year 1952 which has just ended was crowded with activity for God, but this new year is destined to become an even more eventful one in your lives and mine, for we are one year nearer the coming of our Lord. Our achievements for Him in the past cannot be the measure we must adopt for our service during the year which stretches before

us. The desire for working in the Master's vineyard in unselfish ministry for others must drive us on in an effort to break all precedences, setting new records!

The spirit of service is the spirit of Christ. It springs from a Divine principle implanted in the soul of man by the Creator Himself. It is the implementation of the truth expressed by the Master, recorded by Luke and quoted by Paul to the Elders from Ephesus, namely: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Perhaps the greatest lesson the apostle had learned was this truth so clearly taught and exemplified in the life of the Teacher sent from God. It is a principle which is utterly opposed to the natural inclination of man. It is contrary to the concepts of self-centered individuals. It is diametrically counter to the beliefs of men and women from the dawn of history who have not learned this fundamental principle of godliness.

Incomprehensible as it may be to selfish mortals, to those in whose hearts it has been implanted, it becomes the key which unlocks the mystery of the more abundant life to the Christian. It reveals the dominant vitamin of Christianity, the lack of which leaves men moral dwarfs. It points to the principle which will organize all one's activities to a successful and useful end.

Having taken to ourselves this vital philosophy, we have received an attribute of Omnipotence, and, astounding as it may seem to those self-centered lives about us, a careful analysis will bring a conviction to any open-minded person: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

"Blessedness" is predicated upon giving. It expresses all that is desirable in life. Mr. Webster defines the word "beatitude" as "supreme bliss, or BLESSEDNESS." It covers all that we mean by our golden word "success", when we apply the word to the totality of life. It means actual success here and hereafter. It sums up all that right-minded men can possibly desire.

I will even go a step further and state that "blessedness" is more than mere happiness. It has to do with the soul! for, while happiness is dependent upon the circumstances surrounding the life, blessedness points to a well-being within. It is the life of the spirit. It can and does gladly associate with happiness, and yet is never extinguished by pain. Blessedness is the state of perfect poise and peace; a quality of richness of soul that is unaffected by the wind and waves of adverse circumstances.

"It is more blessed to give than to

receive", stands supreme among all the beautitudes in the Word of God. It is the the root of all others. They are but its bountiful fruit. It is the chief of all this great and good company, not simply because it is greater than the rest, but because it is the germinal beatitude; the father of them all! It is the very spiritual centre of the Bible!

Through our Lord's declaration: "It is more blessed to give than to receive," we understand the incentive on the part of God, both for creation and redemption. The joyousness of giving moved Him to create and then, as the need arose, to redeem. The physical universe declare the the glory of God. The act of creation reveals the glory of God in demonstrating His love through the act of giving to others.

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Mutual Confession of Christ and His Disciples

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32. To confess, as in this text, is to speak openly of anything according to its true character. We have in this passage two confessions, first, the confessing of Christ by men, and secondly, the confessing of men by Christ.

Before we can speak openly of Christ according to His true character, we must first *know* Him, and we must appreciate Him. Knowledge and appreciation are both essential to this confession. In every-day life we find it very helpful to know some people, especially those in positions of great trust and influence. We make extraordinary effort to become acquainted with and maintain the good will of outstanding characters. Great good frequently accrue to those who have friends in high circles. It is very helpful indeed to know some people, yet how true we find it, that many with whom we would like to come into close association and friendship have no burden or desire for such a relationship.

How encouraging then is the invitation recorded in Job 22:21: "Acquaint now thyself with Him and be at peace, thereby good shall come unto thee." Acquaintance precedes knowledge, and here we are instructed that a mere acquaintance with God will bring us great blessing: the first mentioned here is peace. "Peace I leave with you, my

peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

But God expects us to pass beyond the experience of mere acquaintanceship into that fuller and deeper experience of knowing Him who is the fount of every blessing, material and spiritual.

David on his deathbed called his son Solomon to his side and said: "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him He will cast thee off forever." 1 Chron. 28:9 Too many of the disciples of Christ are satisfied with only an acquaintance experience. "We shall know if we follow on to know Him."

The Lord speaking through Jeremiah puts the truth nakedly when He says: "For my people are foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children and they have no understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." Jer. 4: 22. Isaiah picks up the strain and gives even a more pathetic picture: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken. I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." Isaiah 1:1, 2.

We may well ask ourselves individually the question: "Do I know God?" It is a vital question, for knowledge must precede confession. We cannot speak of Christ according to His true character unless we know Him and appreciate Him. One of the surest tests that we can apply to our experience is recorded in 1 John 4:7,8. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God: and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God: for God is love." This the higher experience to which the Lord is inviting us. It is an experience which can only be realized when we are strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. When Christ dwells in our hearts by faith, we shall be rooted and grounded in love. Then shall we "be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge." "Love is the golden chain which binds believing hearts to one another in willing bonds of

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Gleanings from Year-End Reports

We wish it were possible to bring to you a full report of the different fields as they were presented at our year end meetings here at the Union office in November, but we shall endeavour to give the high points only.

From the Union President's report we learn that 1,949 souls have been baptized during the first nine months of the year 1952, and there are high hopes of reaching the Union goal of 3,000 by the end of December. There are 4,360 active students enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Schools, with 215 already baptized this year. In comparing the tithes and mission offerings for 8 months we find that there was a gain of 29% in tithes of 1952 over 1951, and a gain of 20% in mission offerings over the same period.

Elder A. C. Stockhausen, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary, was happy to report that our Union Ingathering goal of £5,000 had been surpassed by £124-9-10. He also told of 395 lay preachers who have won 821 souls already baptized, and 1,212 in baptismal classes for three quarters of 1952. A very substantial increase in Dorcas Welfare activities as well as general missionary activities mark the same period. The Sabbath school membership stood at 20,367 at the end of the third quarter.

Elder O. V. Schneider, MV and Educational Secretary, enthusiastically told of the Share-Your-Faith spirit that is gripping the Advent youth throughout the British West Indies Union. This spirit was made evident at two inspiring Youth Congresses held in Grand Cayman and Kingston, where the young people presented their trophies as an evidence of their zeal for God. He also reported the founding of the first Master Guide Club in the Union, of thirty members under the guidance of Mrs. Martin Hoehn in Kingston. From his report we also learned that there are now 25 church schools in the Union, with an enrollment of 1774, and plans are underway for the founding of five or six more schools in 1953.

Our enthusiastic Publishing Secretary, Pastor A. R. Haig, never fails to give an astonishing report of the progress of the book work. He told us of 400 colporteurs who have earned scholarships since 1944: 5 of whom are doctors; 75 are licensed and ordained workers; 15 are nurses; 10 are teachers, and 30 are attending colleges. Approximately 2,000 persons have taken part in colporteur-auxiliary work. 25 Churches have been

raised up by colporteurs and auxiliary workers. Think of it, in eight months of 1952 £20,995-9-5 worth of books have been delivered in the British West Indies Union, as compared with £20,012-11-11 for the whole year of 1950, and at that time British Honduras was included in this Union!

Bahamas

We rejoiced with Elder R. E. Gibson, as he told us of the progress of the work in the Bahamas Mission over the past year. Two new families were added to their small staff of workers during that time: Pastor and Mrs. C. S. Greene and their small daughter, Glenda Mae, and Brother and Sister W. W. Liske. Because the field is composed of small islands, travelling from one part of the field to another takes a lot of time, but God has given the advantages of the local radio over which station they are able to give the message through 168 programmes per year, or 67 hours of time, 41 hours of which are freely given. There are 26 organized churches and 29 Sabbath schools on eight different Islands. This field presents a great unfinished task in that out of 177 villages, 145 are still unentered as far as the advent message is concerned. Pray for the work in the Bahamas, that God will send forth labourers into that part of the vineyard.

East Jamaica

Elder H. D. Colburn's report of the East Jamaica Conference showed a net gain in membership of 2,109 during the last four-year period, and an increase of approximately £7,000 in tithe income.

The number of Sabbath schools have been increased by 17 over this same period, and the Sabbath school membership by 2,082, while 5 new churches have been organized.

West Jamaica

Our hearts were thrilled as Pastor H. S. Walters told of doubling the working force of the West Conference in two years, and as a result 2,429 souls have been baptized during 1951 and nine months of 1952, with 1,000 enrolled in the baptismal classes. The lay preachers have played a large part in this soul-winning programme, having brought in 1,211 souls between 1951 and 1952.

Surely, these reports clearly reveal that God has set His hand to finish the work of gathering His people from the islands of the sea as well as from the great mainlands of the earth.

P. Nation.

Adventuring for Christ

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From Tarpun Bay we went to a new place where many had been taking the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence lessons. We were disappointed and almost discouraged to find that place almost impregnable, but after much prayer and fasting, coupled with hard work, light began to break through, and today we look forward to seeing our work fully established here in the near future.

Many are the experiences we have had, but just one will help you to see how God is working upon the hearts of men and women today. The first morning that we set up our sound system in the latter place mentioned, a group of young people, drawn from those who were impressed with the message, sang gospel songs over the microphone in the early morning hours. Many came to our hall with great joy in their hearts, drawn by the sweet strains of the songs at this early hour. Among those who came was a girl who had gone astray, but her heart was touched by the invitations of Mercy in song. She knelt at the altar and with much tears poured out her soul to God in prayer. We prayed with her and she vowed never to roam. This sister is now a baptized member, and we pray that she will ever remain faithful to God and the message.

It was with much regret that we bade adieu to our work at North Palmetto Point, occasioned by the death of my father in Jamaica, but I am confident that God will take care of the good work started here in much hardship.

My heart rejoices for the humble part I have had in the progress of the work in the Bahamas Mission during the past year and ten months. 38 precious souls have been buried in baptism, many thousands of pieces of literature distributed, 325 sermons preached, thousands of visits made, as well as many friends for the message. My wife and I desire to be more faithful to God and the message, and hope to meet when the roll is called up yonder with those we have worked for in God's kingdom.

—LEE A. GOULDBOURNE.

Note: Pastor Gibson has since baptized four from the Palmetto Point effort, and added two on profession of faith, thus making a total of 42 baptized and 3 taken in on profession of faith.

The Blessedness of Giving

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As we ally ourselves with those who have learned the secret of happiness, namely: giving rather than receiving, I am sure that each one of us would like to adopt the prayer of the poet who wrote:

“Forbid for me an easy place
O God, in some sequestered nook
Apart to lie
To doze and dream and weaker grow
And less and less to do or know
Until I die!
Give me, O Lord, a task so hard,
That all my powers shall taxed be
To do my best;
That I may stronger grow in toil.
For harder service fitted be
Until I rest!”

In thinking of your possibilities for 1953, I would suggest that you will accomplish just what you set out to accomplish. He who would accomplish little, will sacrifice little, and he who would achieve much must sacrifice much. He who would attain a high goal must sacrifice greatly. He who cherishes a beautiful vision of achievement for God, a lofty ideal in his heart, will surely realize it.

As you give yourself in unstinted service for Christ during this new year, you will be identifying yourself with all who through the ages have learned the blessedness of giving. As you do this you will find that the glory of giving your time, your talents, your all, is like God. All the inhibitions of selfishness will be broken and banished; all the clinging to earth, to life, in order to save it for yourself, will be relaxed, and you will sing out in the liberty of your new-found life a note of joyousness which you will not be able to hide from others. In the experience which will come in unstinted service for God, you will understand what the more abundant life is here. And in the hereafter, standing triumphant at the end of your earthly service you will thrill at the words of the King of kings when He says: “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me.” Then you will understand, even more fully than you can now, the meaning of the beatitude, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

—H. D. COLBURN.

Mutual Confession of Christ

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friendship, tenderness, and faithful constancy; which binds the soul to God.” —Vol. 3, page 33.

How do we confess Christ? Christ is confessed by the recognition of His disciples and servants, especially such as most resemble Him—the children of sorrow. Jesus is confessed by the worship of His holy name. He is confessed by the endurance of shame and persecution for His sake. When John Huss was being led out to martyrdom, the enemies of truth placed on his head a cap on which was written in large letters: “Arch heretic.” “Most gladly,” said Huss, as he walked to the stake, “will I wear this cap of shame for Him who for me did wear a crown of thorns.” Finally, He is confessed by living to Him and for Him. We are epistles of Christ, known and read of all men. Christ was the Father's epistle. What He taught He lived. “I declared unto them thy name,” “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.”

In the passage before us a mutual confession is emphasized. Christ pledges Himself to confess men in the heavenly courts above. Seated by the right hand of the Majesty on high, He pleads His blood for us before the Father. At His second coming in glory, He shall call from this earth His saints. “The Lord knoweth them that are His.”

It is quite clear that secret discipleship can never fulfil our duties and exhaust our obligations. “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Rom. 10:10. The trials involved in the confession of Christ are light and momentary, when compared with the weight of the reward which Christ Himself shall give. Let us go forward as true disciples in 1953, confessing our Lord.

—W. A. HOLGATE.

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R. W. Numbers Editor
P. Nation Asst. Editor

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